

TRANSEND

A newsletter for employees, retirees and stakeholders of the Arizona Department of Transportation

March, 2006

INSIDE

Director's Corner	2
Communication – a vital tool	
Human Resources news	5
Employee pay increase	
Aeronautics Division	6
Grand Canyon Airport fire truck	
Motor Vehicle Division	7
Self-service kiosks available	
ITG updates services	8
Going wireless in Phoenix	

TRANSEND emerges as employee newsletter

New name
New look

COVER STORY
Page 3



YOUR
INAUGURAL
EDITION





Victor Mendez
Director

Communication – a vital tool for a productive work environment

With more than 4,500 employees working for the Arizona Department of Transportation, the agency faces a daunting challenge in communicating on a regular basis with all of them. We have seven divisions that are scattered around the state in nine engineering districts and 90 Motor Vehicle Division field offices.

I am delighted to introduce you to **TRANSEND**, a completely re-designed newsletter for employees, retirees and stakeholders of the Arizona Department of Transportation. I am confident that it will become your chosen source for in-depth coverage of ADOT news and feature articles.

The management of ADOT values an informative, timely and regularly published employee newsletter as the accepted mode of communicating with our wide-spread staff. I encourage all employees to examine every issue of this monthly publication and to provide the editorial staff with comments about, and suggestions for articles. It is only with your active readership and participation that this newsletter can effectively serve the agency and its employees.

While we certainly would like to meet and talk with every individual employee, the sheer size of the organization limits our ability to do so on any regular basis. E-mail communication provides quick and condensed messaging, but for in-depth, informative and interactive communications with employees, ADOT leadership promotes and supports the publication of this employee newsletter.

Sincerely,

Victor M. Mendez
Director

What's in a name?

By Ron Loar
Editor

When my first child was born, I wanted to name him Rodger Stanley; the family tradition being that the first-born son bears his father's initials and the middle name "Stanley," as did his father and grandfather. Only problem with that was, my wife had her choice of names. Complicating that, our first child was a girl. "Rodger" just would not do.

Naming this new publication presented similar challenges. The Editorial Board listened to my proposals of five names then proceeded to come up with several dozen ideas of their own. Fair enough. They were part of the conceptualization process, and for several meetings, we played the game of "Name the Newsletter."

This publication is going to be "our baby," and we wanted a name that would be current, creative, easy to identify, and, most certainly, a name that would be unique – not copied from another publication. The board also wanted to avoid a name that could be construed as "division specific," that is, a title which singled out one aspect of ADOT. Other divisions of ADOT, such as MVD or Aeronautics could feel excluded by such names as "The Interchange" or, "Highway Times" which seem to embrace freeways.

Selecting a name that communicates highway construction and maintenance, planes, trains, buses, automobiles, licensing, tax administration, enforcement and all the myriad services and products ADOT provides was certainly going to be difficult.

After much deliberation, heated discussions and some name-calling of our own, we settled upon the name you see throughout this publication. No, we did not misspell the word "transcend." As writers and editors, we would never intentionally misspell a word.

The name of your new ADOT employee newsletter is a play on the word "transcend," which means to go beyond, to excel, to surpass. As a newsletter for employees of a state agency that strives to excel and go beyond the norm, we want this publication to transcend all other newsletters.

The name is also an amalgamation of two words, "transportation" and "send." Thus, dear readers, we introduce you to our baby and your new ADOT employee newsletter:

TRANSEND

TRANSEND

TRANSEND is published monthly by the Creative Services Group of the Communication and Community Partnerships Division for the employees and retirees of the Arizona Department of Transportation.

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TRANSEND emerges as employee newsletter

When this agency was known as the Arizona Highway Department and full-time employees numbered fewer than 700, an employee newsletter was seen as the logical way to communicate news, policies and events to the workforce. The first newsletter was published in July 1969.

Called *Highway Drumbeats*, the two-color, four-page publication was issued each month by the Public Information Office. In the first issue, then director

Justin Herman wrote in the Director's Corner that the newsletter "will establish more effective lines of communication with our Highway Department 'family,' whose members are represented in every section of Arizona."

Herman foresaw the newsletter as a "useful tool for all of us, management as well as employees. We expect to deal with all subjects . . . that are of

interest to, and affect the welfare of Highway Department employees," he wrote in his first published column.

Drumbeats was published steadily for four years, until 1974 when the Arizona Highway Department was renamed the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) by an act of the State Legislature. In July of that year, the newsletter became known as *Newsbeat*. William Ordway was the first director of ADOT.

Three years into publication as *Newsbeat*, Walt Gray was named editor. Under Gray's editorship, the publication became a "first-rate, professional newsletter," according to Armand Celaya, who had been a graphic designer for

ADOT's Public Information Office since 1974.

"Walt and Armand worked side-by-side for over 25 years, bringing a lot of professionalism to publishing the newsletters," according to Doug Nintzel, public information officer, who worked with them to develop *Newsbeat* into an award-winning newsletter.

In September 2000, the newsletter was renamed *Mileposts*, with Walt and Armand publishing it for the next two years. When Gray retired in 2002 Celaya, with assistance from Nintzel, continued to publish *Mileposts* until Celaya retired the following year.



"The newsletter's name, **TRANSEND**, is a subtle nod to the word 'transcend' which means to excel, go beyond, to surpass," according to Ron Loar, who was recently named editor of the publication.

Assigning Loar to the editor's chair, Wilhelmsen said that in his 16-year role as a graphic designer for ADOT, Loar has provided articles for the newsletter in the past. "His 15 years of experience as a newspaper reporter and columnist will serve him well in his new duties as editor of this publication. His training and experience as a graphic designer will go a long way to make the newsletter appealing to readers," she commented.

Loar said he is encouraging readers to provide comments and suggestions that will improve the quality of the publication. Contact the editor by phone, (602) 712-8147 or send an e-mail to rloar@azdot.gov.

(Continued Page 5)

New name . . . new look

With this issue, the ADOT newsletter has been totally redesigned as a PDF file, available on the ADOT Intranet, and renamed to reflect the agency's desire for excellence and to go beyond the norm.

"We are extremely excited to take the employee newsletter to new levels of excellence," said Shannon Wilhelmsen, director of ADOT's Communication & Community Partnerships Division. "This newsletter represents our commitment to proactive communication with our ADOT community as well as the public."



Madison Ave. Motor Pool closes; services to be provided at ADOA facility

The ADOT Motor Pool operations located at 1621 W. Jackson St. will be permanently closed as of March 20 to make room for additional modular offices. Short-term rental of state vehicles will be handled by the Arizona Department of Administration (ADOA) Motor Pool at 1501 W. Madison St.

Transition to the ADOA Motor Pool will be effective at 7 a.m. on March 20, according to John Nichols, administrator of ADOT's Physical Plant Operations. ADOA Motor Pool hours of operation are from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

ADOA Reservation desk number 602-542-3110

All vehicles currently dispatched by the ADOT Motor Pool should be returned to that facility at 1621 W. Jackson St. by the close of business on March 17. Vehicles that are in an active dispatch status with ADOT and having a return date after March 17 are to be returned to 2350 S. 22nd Ave. at the Fleet Management Modular A facility. Persons with ADOT vehicles in active dispatch status should advise the ADOT Motor Pool 602-712-7777 of the late arrival.

The ADOA Motor Pool will take reservations in preparation for closing of the ADOT facility starting on March 13 in order to prevent interruption of service. Travelers are advised to contact ADOA to make or confirm any existing reservation having a departure date beyond March 17. Contacts at Fleet Management are Michael O'Malley 602-712-66507 or Libby Brown 602-712-6506.

All ADOT vehicles and equipment at the 1621 W. Jackson St. location will be removed by the close of business on March 17.

Vehicles dispatched will be ADOA- or contractor-owned, according to Nichols.

ARIZONA 511 – 2 million and counting

By Diane E. D'Angelo
Public Information Officer
Transportation Technology Group

Two million calls and counting!

This number, reached just three years after Arizona launched the 511 Travel Information System, is indicative of the program's overwhelming success.

2005 proved a benchmark year for ADOT's 511. In September, the travel information line logged its two millionth call. As a result, the 511 program will undergo a major ramp-up in 2006.

Goals for 511 this year include increased public awareness of the program via strategic marketing efforts, a "travel time" feature and expansion of special events announcements to cities across the state.

Arizona was one of the first states to use 511 as the telephone number to access current road and travel conditions. It is anticipated that by the end of this year, nearly 75 percent of the country will have access to the 511 System as more states embrace the 511 Travel Information System.

"It's important that we provide accurate and timely information about road and weather conditions that may affect the motoring public," says Tim Wolfe, assistant state engineer for ADOT. "Everyone wants to know what is happening on specific sections of roadway and they want to know right now. That is the information we are trying to provide them. In addition, the 511 system provides information about public transit, airports, tourism and special events. It's all related to quality traveler information," Wolfe says.

Arizona 511 utilizes the Highway Conditions Reporting System (HCRS), which collects data from multiple sources, including up-to-the-minute information gathered by operators at the ADOT Traffic Operations Center. Valley commuters use 511 as a vital tool to plan their rush-hour trips. Moreover, Arizonans across the state have come to rely on 511 as a trusted resource during winter snowstorms, spring floods and summer fire season.

511 is also a vital component of the Amber Alert System. When electronic message signs inform of an Amber Alert, drivers are prompted to call 511, where they hear a message overriding all other information. So far, 31 abducted children have been recovered in Arizona as a result of Amber Alert.

The 511 service is housed at ADOT's Traffic Operations Center, which also maintains the system's Web counterpart, www.az511.com which displays traffic volume, roadway conditions, incidents and camera images. The impact of this effort is remarkable. In July 2005, for example, the Web site had approximately 27 million hits.

Arizona has always been at the forefront of the national 511 deployment campaign and continues to offer innovations to better serve the public. Recently, a 511 Special Event category was launched during the NASCAR/Checker Auto Parts 500 at Phoenix International Raceway. During that weekend, 5200 callers requested special event information which was kept up-to-date in partnership with Maricopa County DOT and PIR. In mid-January, drivers used 511 for traffic condition reports in areas affected by the P.F. Chang's Rock 'n Roll Arizona Marathon and Barrett-Jackson Auto Auction.

Average 6.3 percent increase for all state employees

Employees receive much needed pay raise this month

ADOT employees can expect to take home more money in their March 31 check. That's welcome news to all state employees, who will get an across-the-board annual salary adjustment of \$1,650 beginning with the March 11 pay period.

Governor Janet Napolitano, who has been a proponent for state employee pay increases, signed House Bill 2661 into law, giving state workers an average 6.3 percent boost in salary.

The pay raise includes a 2.5% performance increase to all state employees' base salary and an additional increase of \$1,650.

Exercising her authority of line-item veto, the governor removed a portion of the bill that would have made employees appointed after December 31, 2006 in a pay grade of 24 or above exempt under A.R.S. 41-771.

"While the remainder of this pay package is a good start, it is just that: a start," the governor wrote in a letter to the Arizona House of Representatives. "Future raises will be needed to bring state employees in line with their counterparts in other public sector positions."

The raise is one of the most significant that state employees have received in some time. Because the measure was passed with an emergency clause, the bill

goes into effect upon the governor's signature.

In her letter to House Speaker Jim Weiers on Jan. 30, the governor noted, "Normally, I do not sign bills that will have significant fiscal impact until the entire budget is resolved. In this instance, however, Arizona's state employees have waited long enough for a real pay raise."

"This is their year," said Weiers, R-Phoenix, referring to long-suffering state employees, whose turnover rate of 17.6 percent is more than triple that of workers in Phoenix and other major Valley cities.

State workers in Arizona make an average of \$32,789 a year, 22 percent below the estimated market value for comparable workers. Employees in nearby states make substantially more: an average of \$45,425 in Colorado and \$43,550 in Nevada, for example.

Late in 2005, a state legislative advisory committee recommended employee pay raises of 7.5 percent next year and 6.3 percent during the four years beyond that to bring Arizona up to the market rate.

G. Delgado promoted to MVD assistant director post

George Delgado, recently manager of the Financial Resources Unit for Motor Vehicle Division, has been named MVD's assistant division director in charge of the Executive Services Group. He succeeds Ruth Halikowski, who recently retired, according to MVD Director Stacey K. Stanton, who made the appointment.



George Delgado

In his new position, Delgado will supervise the 55 full-time employees comprising MVD's Budget, Purchasing, Strategic Plan, Traffic Operations, Grant Billing, Traffic Records and Facilities Operations units. He began state service in 1989 as a management analyst in the Administrative Services Division of ADOT. In 1995, he took a position as business manager with the Arizona Department of Health Services. In 1998, he returned to ADOT to work as manager of MVD's Financial Resources Unit.

A native of El Paso, Texas, Delgado graduated from the University of Texas at El Paso with a degree in business administration. He and his wife, Rosemary, spend their leisure attending symphonies, volunteering as ushers at the Herberger Theatre and making improvements to their home in the West Valley. George is an avid reader of historical novels and is fond of woodworking.

Employee newsletter emerges

(Continued from Page 3)

Since the early years of *Drumbeats*, *Newsbeat* and in later years, *Mileposts*, the ADOT newsletter had been a printed newsletter. In 2004, *Mileposts* became an on-line, HTML publication after Governor Janet Napolitano issued Executive Order 2003-14. The Statewide Efficiency Review decreed, in part, that "all agencies shall use electronic communications where feasible to reduce printing and mailing costs."

TRANSEND will continue to be available on-line as a PDF file that can be opened in Adobe Acrobat. "We are dedicated to making the newsletter available to all ADOT employees," the editor said. Those who do not have access to a computer may request the administrative

Services officer or manager of their area to print out current issues and post them in a common area, such as a lunchroom, office or garage.

TRANSEND will also be made available to retired employees who provide the editor with their e-mail address.

"This newsletter depends upon the response and interaction of employees. We want to know about events and activities in all divisions, sections and groups of ADOT," the new editor said.

Operator protected within safety of truck

Grand Canyon Airport updates firefighting fleet

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK -- Getting close enough to a burning airplane to extinguish the blaze can be a difficult task for firefighters. To make the job easier for fire and rescue crews at the Grand Canyon National Park Airport, officials recently took delivery of a new apparatus that will make the job of firefighting a whole lot easier.

The 2005 F550 Rapid Intervention Vehicle (RIV) is designed for a one-man operation, according to Craig Talatzko, acting manager of the airport. "Without ever being exposed to the immediate hazards of the fire, the operator is able to attack the flames with water or fire-

retardant foam from the safety of the truck cab," the manager said. A Hydro-Chem bumper-mounted turret can disperse 150 gallons of water or foam per minute where needed from a safe distance while the operator is protected inside the vehicle. The truck carries 300 gallons of water, 40 gallons of foam, and 500 pounds of dry chemicals.

Two powerful 500-watt scene lights mounted behind the cab of the truck can illuminate a crash site with sufficient light for nighttime rescue. The vehicle stows 150 feet of pre-connected hose with a piercing nozzle, breathing apparatus, full turn-out gear for firefighters, friction testing equipment, first aid gear, backboards, hand-held radios and a communications base station.

"Being in a job where equipment reliability is a premium, this new truck has given airport personnel tremendous confidence that, along with their training, they will be able to do the best job possible. Our firefighting skills and the latest technology found on this truck will allow us to perform faster and more efficiently," Talatzko said.

Purchased at a cost of \$210,000, the RIV was financed by a 95/5 split of funds from the Federal Aviation Administration and the Grand Canyon Airport. It replaces a 1978 Chevrolet flatbed truck with fire sled that has been retired from service.

The Grand Canyon Airport logs approximately 800,000 enplanements annually as tourists from all over the world fly into the airport to visit the natural wonder.

Writers and reporters needed for newsletter

In order for TRANSEND to be an effective and quality employee newsletter, we need to publish information about what is going on in your office.

We are seeking a few volunteer writers and reporters in every division, section, group and field office within ADOT to keep us informed about news and events happening throughout the Arizona Department of Transportation.

All you need to become a writer for this publication are basic writing skills and a desire to be part of a growing publication. Our staff will coach you on the sort of articles we are looking for. We will even help you develop your own personal writing style.

If you are interested in developing your skills and being a contributing writer or reporter, call the editor at (602) 712-8147, or e-mail him at rloar@azdot.gov.

Your involvement will help make this newsletter an essential communication link within ADOT.



Craig Talatzko, acting manager of Grand Canyon National Park Airport and Michael Cockrum, firefighter/EMT at the airport, stand beside the 2005 F550 Rapid Intervention Vehicle (RIV) recently purchased by the airport. The specialized vehicle can be operated by one person without ever having to leave the interior compartment to dispense water or fire-retardant foam on a burning plane. Cockrum designed the logo on the side of the vehicle.

Introduction to Partnering classes offered at HRDC

Human Resources Development Center is offering a half-day class, "Introduction to Partnering" for those employees wanting to become acquainted with the principle concepts of Partnering.

The class will be March 15 from 8 a.m. to noon at HRDC, 1130 N. 22nd Ave. in Phoenix.

Partnering is a collaborative effort that establishes agreements among project partners so work challenges are resolved efficiently and effectively.

Taught by Steve Clarke, the course will cover:

- Partnering Background
- Partnering Purpose, Principles, Processes and Flow
- Partnering Benefits, Successes and Roles
- Skills for Successful Partnering and Resources
- The Role of the Partnering Section
- Components of the Partnering Workshop
- Personal Action Planning

Slow down in work zones!

Each year, hundreds of children are orphaned due to fatalities in work zones. These children depend on their parents.

Please drive carefully in work zones and slow down!

This message is brought to you by the Arizona Department of Transportation and caring families.



Self-service kiosks in Motor Vehicle Division offices speed customer service process

By Jim Cullison
MVD Project Support Manager

Do-it-yourself takes on a new meaning in 28 Motor Vehicle Division offices around the state.

Each of those offices now has a self-service workstation that allows customers to complete many motor vehicle and driver license transactions using MVD's electronic service delivery system, *ServiceArizona*.

Called EZ Service Centers, these workstations provide customers an alternative to waiting in line for a customer service representative to conduct the most common MVD transactions. In 2005, Arizonans completed 106,000 transactions online at the service centers, freeing up the MVD staff to serve customers with more complex transactions.

The program began as a pilot project at the Tucson East MVD office. It proved so popular with customers that 14 other offices were outfitted with the EZ Service Centers by mid-2004, mostly in the metro Phoenix and Tucson areas and larger cities like Flagstaff, Yuma and Prescott.

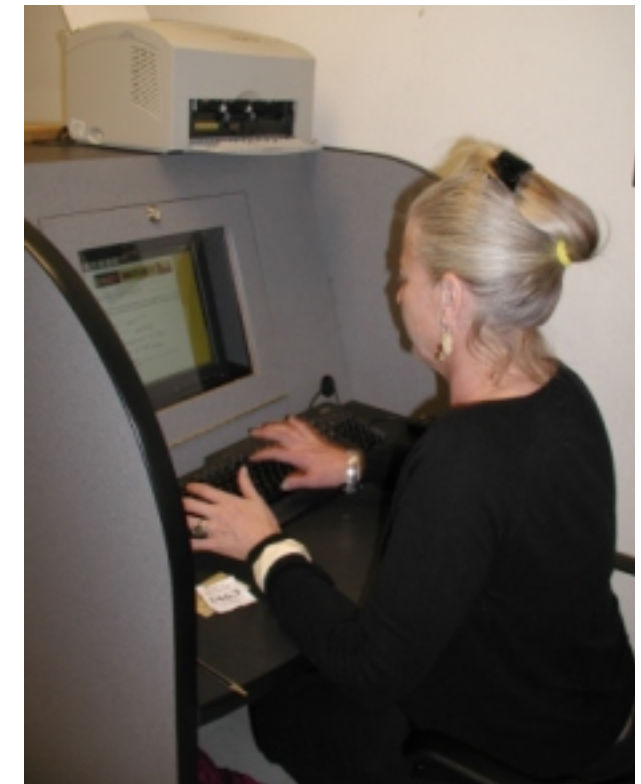
Last year, 13 additional offices were selected to receive the self-service units. Busier locations are in line for additional EZ Service Centers as usage increases. The Tucson Regional office was the first to get a second unit.

IBM partnered with the MVD to design e-government services over the Internet, providing the equipment for the centers – desk, computer, printer, paper, ink and telephone connection. IBM provides maintenance to the equipment when needed. The computers provide direct access only to the MVD *ServiceArizona* Web site.

Customers say they appreciate the innovation. "This is a very good idea. It saves a lot of time," said Shira Musil after she used the EZ Service Center at the Central Phoenix office recently. "Now that I know about your online services, I may not have to come back to an MVD office." Her comments reflect one of the objectives of

the project: familiarize customers with the ease of online service so next time they can log on from home.

Jodie Denton, office supervisor at the Central Phoenix office, says the centers are helpful to her staff, too. "The self-service center is great; it reduces wait time and allows customer service representatives more time to handle more complex transactions," she said.



Shira Musil of Phoenix says she appreciates the convenience of the EZ Service Center at MVD's Central Phoenix office. She is one of more than 100,000 MVD customers who have used the self-service kiosks at 28 offices around the state.

Photo by Cydney DeModica

Get connected and cut the cord at the same time

ADOT goes 'wireless' for benefit of laptop users in Phoenix

Laptop users in the ADOT Phoenix campus now have an easier way to get connected – without the constraints of an Ethernet cable!

Attending a meeting in a conference room and need to check your calendar for availability of the next meeting?
No problem.

In a top-level conference and need to retrieve a spreadsheet from your desktop computer across town?
No problem.

Need to pull off some quick data research on the Internet without excusing yourself from the boss' office?
No problem here, either.

Retrieving valuable data is as close as your laptop computer without having to plug into the network if you are in the Phoenix campus area, thanks to innovative wireless technology that has recently been installed by the Information Technology Group.

"More and more, our customers expect their data to be available instantly, where and when it is needed," said Thomas Branham, ITG's infrastructure protection manager. "Great advances have been made at ADOT to fulfill those needs."

Branham announced that ADOT is set to launch wireless technology that will free computer users from having to plug in their portable computers. He said that most users of the wireless technology should not notice any loss of operating speed.

Employees interested in applying the wireless technology to their ADOT-issued laptops may schedule an appointment for wireless update by e-mailing ADOTInfoTech@azdot.gov. "When a technician makes the modifications, the user will receive a brief introduction to the new technology," Branham said.

The wireless technology initially will be available at the Phoenix campus, comprising the administration, engineering, MVD and general operations buildings, as well as the modular facilities located on the southwest side of the administration building parking lot.

ADOT East facilities at 2739 E. Washington St. will be upgraded later this month, according to Branham. Future expansion plans call for installing wireless service in other facilities as the need arises and funding becomes available, he said.

"Over the last few years, information technology has

improved significantly for ADOT," Branham said. "Yet with those improvements, users were still tethered to their computer's cabling . . . until now." With the introduction of Wireless Fidelity (WiFi), computer technology has effectively "cut the cord" for laptop users. Strategically placed electronic receivers/transmitters act much like cell phone towers (only much smaller) to make the connection between laptops and server. "If you are within any one of the five buildings on the Phoenix campus, your laptop, once configured for the system, will be able to transmit and receive data," he said.

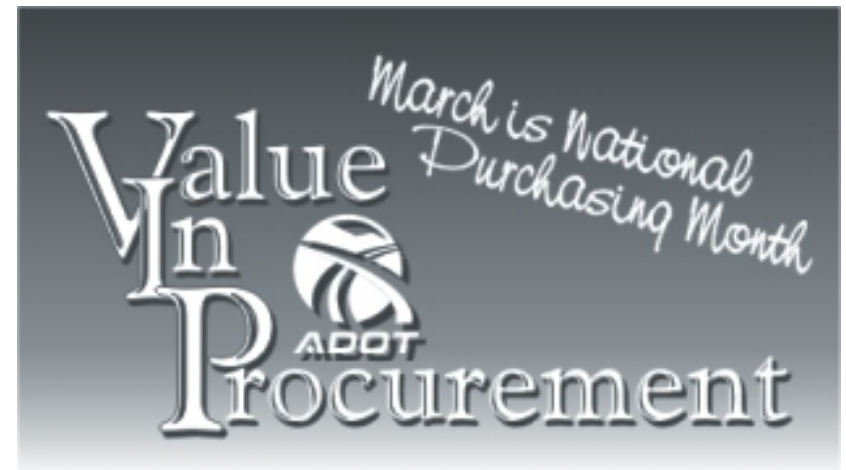
March is National Purchasing Month

Procurement office highlights Value in Procurement theme

Value in Procurement (V.I.P.) is the theme that the Arizona Department of Transportation's Procurement Office is promoting to mark March as National Purchasing Month.

Again this year, ADOT recognizes its employees in the Procurement Office for their contributions to the agency. The V.I.P. theme reflects ADOT's pioneering the Value in Procurement program in Arizona. Development of the V.I.P. program has strategized savings by sharing purchasing contracts. "In the past fiscal year, Arizona has realized a net savings of \$80.3 million," according to Larry Tweet, chief procurement officer for ADOT.

The objective of the program is to save \$136.2 million by the end of FY 2007. The V.I.P. program eliminates duplication of procurement contracts between agencies, thus allowing many government entities to benefit from volume discounts.



ADOT, AGC, ACEC host annual Partnering Event

The Arizona Department of Transportation once again teamed up with the Association of General Contractors and the American Council of Engineering Companies to host the annual Partnering Event held at the Wyndham Hotel in downtown Phoenix. Over 200 guests attended the daylong event.

Rene Redondo from Granite Construction Co. was master of ceremonies. He and Sam Elters, state engineer for ADOT, shared the podium to offer opening remarks. "Ensuring successful partnering today is increasingly challenging," Elters told the attendees. "Leading by example in a culture of mutual understanding and respect between ADOT and industry is the way to meet the

transportation needs in the State of Arizona today and in the future." His comments were in correlation with the Partnering Event's theme, "Arizona's Tomorrow Demands Successful Partnering Today."

Bob Templeton, executive director of the National Partnership for Highway Quality gave the keynote address. He spoke of the continuing quest to improve the quality of highways and customer service. "Current conditions on the nation's highways are unacceptable," he noted. Pointing out that there are 167,566 deficient bridges in the national infrastructure, he went on to share statistics from the 2002 FHWA Condition Report, saying that only 43.5 percent of the total system pavement is in good condition and that only 86 percent are in acceptable condition.

Luncheon speaker Dave Zantell, of the FHWA Hoover Dam Bypass Project, gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the progress to date on the approaches to the Hoover Dam Bypass. He said that R. E. Monks Construction Company and Vastco Joint Venture have completed their \$21.5 million contract. Edward Kraemer & Sons, Inc. has completed their \$30,144,444 contract to erect the approach on the Nevada side. The actual bridge structure is currently under construction.



Dave Zantell of the Federal Highways Administration (second from left) presented awards to three contractors for their involvement in the Hoover Dam Bypass project. Receiving plaques were, left, Tim Mueller of Edward Kraemer & Sons, and to the right of Zantell, Ed Van Beek of Vastco, Inc., and Mike Claflin and Terry Merrell, both from RE Monks Construction Company. The awards were presented at the annual Partnering Event held at the Windham Hotel in downtown Phoenix.

Jim Lykins recognized for state service to CTOC

For his service of six years on the Citizen's Transport-ation Oversight Committee (CTOC), Jim Lykins was presented with a plaque signed by Governor Janet Napolitano.

CTOC, a panel of seven citizens, meets at least four times a year to receive comments and suggestions from Maricopa County residents about transportation issues.

The chairman and a member-at-large are appointed by the governor. Five members are appointed by the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors. All serve three-year terms.



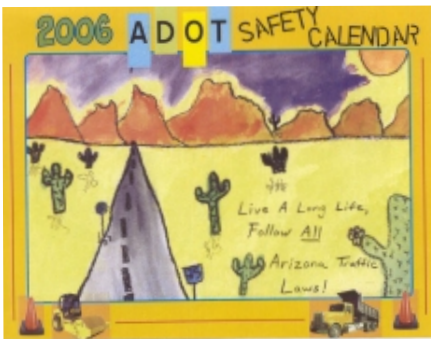
Jim Lykins, left, receives certificate for community service from CTOC chairman F. Rockne Arnett.

Kids' art illustrates ADOT safety calendar

By Emily Dawson
Tucson District

They're starting out young, learning about safety, these fledgling artists who are relatives of ADOT employees. Their safety-related artwork was chosen to illustrate this year's safety calendar.

More than 50 children under the age of 12 submitted original artwork, complete with safety slogans for consideration. The 14 winners were selected by ADOT employees, according to Sonya Herrera, manager of ADOT's Safety and Health Section which sponsors the contest. All ADOT employees were invited to view the art entries on-line and select their favorite entries.



This is the third year the art calendar contest has been held. There are plans to hold another contest later this year for a 2007 calendar, according to Herrera.

Additional copies of the calendar may be purchased for two dollars each at Engineering Records,

1655 W. Jackson St., Room 175, Phoenix.

Winning artwork for the cover was submitted by Sierra Vial, relative of Roger Vial, Phoenix Construction District.

Other winners and their ADOT relative for monthly pages were:

January – Jori McKenna Hildreth, relative of Jody Hildreth, Ganado Maintenance;

February – Kaylei Stewart, relative of Ruby Dieble, MVD Enforcement Services, St. George;

March – Priscilla Madrid, relative of Maria Garcia, Phoenix Maintenance District;

April – Tony Kuhn, relative of Darrell Kuhn, MVD Enforcement Services, Topock;

May – James E. Hernandez, relative of Jaime Hernandez, Yuma Construction District;

June – Larisa Crosby, relative of Rick Crosby, Phoenix Flight Operations;

July – Amber Dodge, relative of Dell Dodge, Kingman Maintenance;

August – Antonio Conte, Jr., relative of Antonio Conte, Tucson Construction;

September – Leah Zuniga, relative of Alfred Zuniga, Tucson Construction;

October – Kristen Akers, relative of Dennis Akers, Kingman Construction;

November – Chessnie Cline, relative of Chuck Willis, Globe Equipment Services;

December – Cynthia Gardner, relative of Cyndi Selby, Director's Office, Phoenix.

January 2007 – Sydney Hall, relative of Doug Katrina, Tucson District.

The calendar was designed by John Walradt of Communications and Community Partnerships.

Nine-year-old Amber Dodge is proud of her artwork that was selected to appear on the 2006 ADOT safety calendar. She posed for this photo with the Highway Hawk at the awards ceremony.

Photo by John Walradt



MILESTONES – *Employees mark anniversary dates*

The following employees recently marked significant employment anniversaries with the Arizona Department of Transportation.

Receiving certificates for years of service were:

40 years

Larry L. Kindred, ITD, Equipment Services
Roy A. Alvis, ITD, Prescott District Maintenance
Jerry D. Lantz, ITD, Casa Grande Maintenance

35 years

Evelyn A. Davidson, TSG, Information Technical Group
George K. Chin, ITD, Regional Traffic Engineering
Vernon E. Pagel, ITD, Engineering Technical Group
Joseph W. Runser, ITD, Signing and Striping
Carl D. Andrew, MVD, Parker Port of Entry
Larry W. Cox, TSG, Payson Equipment Services
Anita M. Hall, MVD, Records
Ruben Pena, ITD, Signal and Lighting Maintenance
Russell M. Hardwick, ITD, Tucson Signing and Striping

30 years

Deborah Garrett, TSG, Financial Management Services
Linda Thompson, MVD, Northwest Phoenix
Lawrence J. Roberts, MVD, Yuma Port of Entry
Reinhart W. Yingling, ITD, Bridge Group
Arthur B. Pickering, ITD, Flagstaff Maintenance
Jill D. Harvey, TSG, Information Technical Group
Joan M. Allen, MVD, Special Projects
Henri C. Verdugo, ITD, Right of Way Administration
Margaret A. Muniz, MVD, Traffic Records
Winnie K. Bowers, MVD, Glendale Customer Service

25 years

Emily D. Larson, MVD, Flagstaff Customer Service
Janice Winkler, MVD, St. George Port of Entry
Scott E. Boling, MVD, Communications
Kenneth S. Spahn, ITD, Page Maintenance
Gail M. McIlveen, ITD, Geotechnical Design
Stella H. Strnad, MVD, Title Production
Lydia Holcombe, MVD, San Manuel Customer Service
Deborah L. Hamilton, MVD, Competitive Government
David M. Connors, ITD, Tucson Maintenance
Jerald M. Rudy, ITD, Flagstaff District
Rex V. Heward, ITD, Traffic Engineering Group
Sandra N. Gonzales, TSG, Information Technical Group
James D. Williams, MVD, Phoenix Traffic Records
Jill R. Sutton, MVD, Topock Port of Entry
Richard F. Molina, ITD, Phoenix Construction
Dan F. Hom, TSG, Audit and Analysis
Michael R. Wilda, TSG, Facility Maintenance
Juan J. Rodriguez, MVD, Motor Carrier and Tax Services
Arthur J. Cyganik, TPD, Data / GIS

20 years

Larry J. Tweet, TSG, Procurement
Marcella Best, MVD, Mesa Main
Mary Arroyos, MVD, Customer Service
Michael A. Zimmnick, ITD, Phoenix Construction
Larry A. Cushman, ITD, Yuma Maintenance
Richard P. Vint, ITD, Value Analysis
Randolph J. Allenstein, ITD, Central Maintenance
James F. Romero, ITD, Valley Project Management

Arline J. Oliphint, ITD, Right of Way Operations
Leonard J. Hitchcock, ITD, Globe Maintenance
Irvin L. Van Enwyck, 20, ITD, Prescott Maintenance
John R. Wilson, ITD, Urban Acquisition
Arif M. Kazmi, ITD, Design Studies
Raymond F. Kissell, ITD, Tucson Construction Lab
James Abbott, TSG, Audit and Analysis
Elizabeth L. Nelson, MVD, Central Phoenix
Michael L. Russell MVD, Tucson Enforcement
Anna M. Garigan, MVD, Driver Improvement
Tom F. Donithan, TSG, Equipment Services
Ruthie Francis, ITD, Phoenix Construction
Howard J. Campbell, ITD, Signing and Striping
Eddie L. Faultner, ITD, Williams Maintenance
Crystal N. Barbour, TSG, ITG Support Desk
Cameron Dowdell, TSG, Financial Management Services
Barry A. McNaughton, MVD, Hearing Office
Vivian M. Campbell, MVD, Records
Krista L. Trembly, MVD, Third Party
Nancy Romero, MVD, Technical Support
Sabra J. Mousavi, ITD, Right of Way Administration
Robert L. Fortune, ITD, Roadway Support
Robert A. Chaplain, TSG, Information Technical Group
Joan E. Holman, Kingman MVD, Port of Entry
Bonnie G. Miller, MVD, Third Party
Jay C. Paulson, ITD, Phoenix Construction
Edward J. Tully, ITD, Phoenix Maintenance
Eric B. Lathim, ITD, Fredonia Maintenance
Bruce D. Barnett, ITD, Pavement Management.

Comments and Kudos

This column is dedicated to publishing letters and e-mails about, from, and to ADOT management and employees.

Mark Hoffman of the Public Transportation Division, Transit Section was recipient of the following e-mail sent by Major Ben Luoma of the Arizona Army Reserve National Guard:

Mr. Hoffman,

I want to compliment ADOT for the great job that you have been doing on the Valley freeways. I know that your organization gets a lot of criticism from some, but I'm very impressed by the work that you've (ADOT) accomplished especially on the Loop 202 freeway east on Country Club Dr. in Mesa. Despite the 40+ mile commute that my carpool partner and I make, the 202 makes the drive relatively easy and quick. I also greatly appreciate the rubberized asphalt that you've put in along many of our highways here in the valley. Thank you for the great work that ADOT does and the great roads you provide us with.

This e-mail sent to ADOT tells of one motorist's appreciation for the new ease-in lanes on I-17.

I am particularly pleased with your insight to create the safe access freeway lanes. As a resident of Phoenix since 1970, I have noticed drivers so often lack courtesy, and even good sense to let people access the freeway. Many times, they tailgate or pass from behind or just don't let you in even when you are moving at the appropriate speed. The new lanes on I-17 at Cactus Rd. exit and entrance ramps are wonderful. Thank you for implementing this safety feature.

Blanche Lukes, RE/MAX Excalibur Realty.

Patricia Powers-Zermeño, community relations officer with ADOT's Communication and Community Partnerships Division, has been traveling to East Valley schools making presentations about how to safely drive through modern roundabouts.

Following one recent presentation to nearly 300 students at Red Mountain High School, she received the following comments in a letter of thanks from Gregory R. Pott, department chair for Traffic Safety at the school:

Thank you so much for taking time to come out to Red Mountain High School and talk about/teach proper use of a roundabout. Your presentation held the class's attention and you also got them involved in hands-on method. Patricia, you do very well in a classroom setting. The instructors also benefitted because we were not that knowledgeable in that area. Your presentation will help us teach the rules and use of roundabouts.

The letter was also accompanied by notes of appreciation written by several of the students:

Patricia Zermeño,

Thanks so much for coming to Red Mtn. for the presentation on Friday. I had a blast playing with the miniature roundabouts on the floor! You were so entertaining in all that you did, I am glad I know more about roundabouts now. You're great! Good luck with your book! Thanks again!

Yours truly, Jamie Barthelme

and this gem;

Dear Patricia Zermeño,

Thank you so much for helping us with learning about roundabouts. It helped me learn that it is much easier than traffic lights. The best part was when we got to play with the people and the toy cars and learned how roundabouts work.

Sincerely, the big guy in pink (Mark Wisecarver)

Former chief deputy state engineer J.B. Mertz dies

Joseph B. Mertz, who was chief deputy state engineer when he retired from the Arizona Department of Transportation in 1982, died February 10, just three weeks short of his 86th birthday.

Mr. Mertz, a native of Phoenix, began working for the Arizona Highway Department in 1948 at the Winslow office as a salesman. He worked on several construction projects before resigning to return to school to further his education.

After attending Phoenix Junior College and the University of New Mexico, he graduated *cum laude* in May 1951 from the University of Arizona with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering.

In May 1954, he returned to work with the Arizona Highway Department and held several jobs in the construction field, working as head of Contracts and Specifications, Right of Way Section, and Plans & Bridges Section before becoming chief deputy state engineer. After retirement from ADOT, he continued working in the private sector for five years.

He was married for 55 years to the former Jean McCauley, who survives him along with their children and grandchildren.



J.B. Mertz

G. McEnroe joins retiree ranks after 39 years

The following employees have recently retired from state service with ADOT, according to information from Employee Awards and Recognition:

Gerald R. McEnroe, ITD, Materials, 39 years

James Willie Taylor, TSG, Revenue Audit, 36 years

Julian M. Diaz, ITD, Flagstaff District Office, 36 years

Robert L. Laux, TSG, PC/LAN, 36 years

James L. Wiler, ITD, Construction, 30 years

William W. Ford, ITD, Right of Way, 29 years

Albert R. Padilla, ITD, Phoenix Maintenance, 28 years

Albert Bevins, ITD, Materials, 27 years

Frank R. McCullagh, TPD, Data Bureau, 27 years

Marc E. Skinner, MVD, Lake Havasu Dual, 26.5 years

Eleanor C. Hulme, ITD, Construction Group, 26 years

David C. Allen, ITD, Phoenix Construction District, Deer Valley Office, 26 years

Paul D. Jokilehto, ITD, Phoenix Construction District Survey, 26 years

Lupe P. Valdivia, MVD, Motor Carrier and Tax Services, 25 years

Deborah L. Hamilton, MVD, Title and Registration Partnerships, 25 years

Margaret R. Barner, MVD, Holbrook, 24 years

Thomas J. Huey, ITD, Traffic Group, 22 years

Gregg D. McLeod, ITD, Phoenix Construction, 21 years

Radika Subra, TSG, Design & Construction, 21 years

Barbara A. Cerny, TSG, Financial Management Services, 20 years

John R. Markoski, ITD, Traffic Engineering, 20 years

Louis M. Stumer, ITD, Landscape Maintenance, 19 years

David E. Tyler, ITD, Right of Way, 18 years

Francis Stephen Glass, TSG, Third Party Audit, 18 years

Larry Joe Burstyn, MVD, Revenue Accounting, 16 years

Jessie E. Villalobos, ITD, Bridge Group, 15 years

Evamae C. Nye, TSG, Financial Management Services, 14 years

Jimmy Dean Bernard, ITD, Construction, 10 years

Judith A. Hendershot, MVD, Customer Service Administration, 7 years.

Next month in



Next month's issue of **TRANSEND** will feature the **Engineer in Training program, its value to ADOT, and interviews with engineering students who participate in the EIT program. We will spotlight some ADOT engineers who have found successful careers because of the program.**

We are also working on the following articles and more for the April issue:

- Work Zone Memorial
- Ribbon-cutting at Burro Creek Bridge
- Navajo Nation/ADOT/FHWA/BIA annual meeting
- Equipment Roadeo preview

If there are articles or features you would like to see published in ADOT's employee newsletter, let us know. Contact the editor at rloar@azdot.gov or call Ron Loar at (602) 712-8147.

We are also looking for a few reporters and writers. If you would like to try your hand at writing for **TRANSEND**, let the editor know.

G. Murdough honored by AMCA for support of minority contracting

Ginger Murdough, Partnering administrator for ADOT, has received the Hall of Fame Award from the Associated Minority Contractors of America, Phoenix.



Ginger Murdough

The AMCA presented Murdough with a plaque during the annual awards banquet attended by approximately 450 AMCA members and their guests at the Westin Kierland Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Ginger received this award in recognition for her "outstanding achievements, support and dedication over the years in the minority contracting community."